

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment supplements the Applicants' remarks filed on January 19, 2008, and is further responsive to the Office Action of October 19, 2007, in which claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25 and 26 are presently pending. Of those, each of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 7,155,425 to Nykanen, in view of U.S. Patent 6,985,939 to Fletcher, et al. For the following reasons, however, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Independent method claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out that the claimed external matching service, itself, comprises an external, published search engine independent of a search engine internal to the UDDI registry, the published search engine capable of comparing the service requirements and service capabilities through semantic cues in the UDDI request. Support for the amendment is found at least in page 27, line 10 - page 30, line 8 of the specification, as well as in Figure 9 of the drawings.

In a telephone interview on January 29, 2008, the Applicants articulated the following patentable distinctions between the present invention embodiments and the teachings of the Nykanen and Fletcher references:

First, the claimed method enhances the search capabilities of Web services registries such as UDDI by enhancing an existing mechanism in the UDDI registry to publish matching engines that have different search capabilities into the UDDI registry. While the mechanism to publish any generic Web service is already part of a conventional UDDI registry, the idea of publishing a matching engine is novel. As opposed to other types of "regular" Web services that are published in a registry and are

meant to be found, a matching engine Web service is itself used to find other services. This distinction is significant as it improves the quality of Web services to be found.

Further, the claimed mechanism that enables publishing of matching services into UDDI registry also enables a way for the UDDI registry to use the services of an external search engine (published as a Web service) to find services for a given request. Typically, a UDDI registry uses its own hard-wired search engine to find services. However, this aspect of a UDDI registry is externalized so as to provide a mechanism wherein the UDDI does not have to use a hard-wired search engine, but instead can dynamically select a suitable search engine based on the type of request.

As a result, such external matching engines can do a better job than a simple “keyword” based hard-wired search engine since semantic matching engines can be published as external matching engines in the UDDI registry. A semantic matching engine uses semantic cues on the request and targets Web services to determine the “goodness” of the match. The semantic matching engines can use various techniques to conduct the matching e.g., text matching techniques, or ontological reasoning approaches. They can also use a number of information sources to do a better job of matching than a key word search. These information sources could include language dictionaries (e.g., Thesaurus) that contain domain-independent terms or domain specific dictionaries (the domain specific dictionaries are also known as ontologies when they are specified in formal languages which enable machine interpretation).

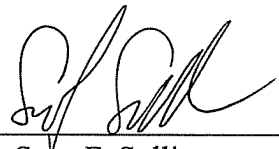
Accordingly, for the above indicated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as now amended overcome the §103 rejections based on the combination of the Nykanen and Fletcher references. In additionally, Applicants note that the remaining non-method claims have been cancelled without prejudice. However, in so doing, the Applicants do not concede that the subject matter of the same is not patentable over the

art of record, and reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the same in one or more continuing applications.

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered. If any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-0510 maintained by Applicants' assignee.

Respectfully submitted,
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